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## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicants submit herewith references of which they are aware, which they believe may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which they may have a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR §1.56.

While this Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) may be "material" pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56(b), it is not intended to constitute an admission that any document referred to herein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on this date, September 17, 2003, in an envelope marked as, and with sufficient postage as, "Express Mail – Post Office to Addressee," Mailing Label No. EV 252883721 US, addressed to the Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

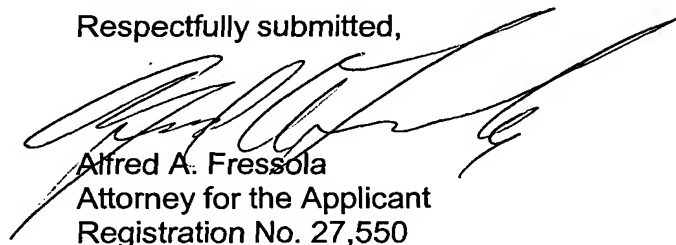
Annemarie Maher  
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In accordance with 37 CFR §1.97(g), the filing of this IDS shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined under 37 CFR §1.56(a) exists.

Enclosed is a Form PTO-1449 listing the cited reference. The relevance of the reference is specifically explained in the application specification. A copy of the cited reference is also enclosed herewith. An English language abstract of the German reference is provided, which abstract provides a concise explanation thereof.

This IDS is being submitted simultaneously with the application for patent in this matter; therefore, the undersigned respectfully submits that no fee is due for filing this IDS. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to deposit account 23-0442 any fee deficiency required to submit this IDS.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: September 17, 2003

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<b>FORM PTO-1449</b> <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b>				ATTY DOCKET NO. <b>948-001.002</b>		SERIAL NO. <b>T B Assigned</b>	
				APPLICANT: <b>Norbert EBEL</b>			
				FILING DATE: <b>Herewith</b>		ART UNIT: <b>To Be Assigned</b>	
<b>UNITED STATES PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
EXAM. INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	INVENTOR/ASSIGNEE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO
		34 09 146	Sept. 19, 1985	DE			
<b>OTHER DOCUMENTS (INCLUDING AUTHOR, TITLE, DATE, PERTINENT PAGES, ETC.)</b>							
Examiner (To be assigned)				Date:			